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## Message from the Mayor

Last week, I thanked staff at the DC Department of Human Services' Income Maintenance Administration (IMA) for their hard work that resulted in the city being awarded more than \$600,000 in federal bonuses by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA gave the District awards in two categories – first, for ensuring that District residents who are eligible for food stamps have access to the program and second, for its outstanding administration of the Food Stamp program.

The District's Income Maintenance Administration was awarded a bonus for its timely processing of applications for food stamps. The District now ranks among the top six jurisdictions in the nation for its operation of this program. Another bonus was awarded to the District for outstanding customer service in providing residents access to the Food Stamp program. The District is the only jurisdiction in the country to receive bonus awards in both categories.

I am pleased that the federal government has recognized our commitment to customer service and our dedication to ensuring access to critically important services like food stamps. I commend our staff at the IMA for their ability to deliver services to residents who are truly in need.

This is the third consecutive year that the District has received an award for outstanding customer service and participant access to the critical food assistance program. The District has now received five monetary bonuses from the USDA totaling more than \$2 million. The recent bonuses make the District the second most highly awarded jurisdiction in the nation under the Temporary Aid for Need Families (TANF) bonus structure. A portion of the recent bonuses will go toward improving customer access.

Last week was Customer Service Week in the District, and I could not be more proud of our staff at the Income Maintenance Administration who are helping people every day to meet their most basic needs.

The DC Department of Human Services' DC Fatherhood Initiative program also won kudos from the federal government – the agency was awarded a \$10 million "Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Community Access Program" grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services that will be distributed over a five-year period (more information on this later in this newsletter).



## AGENCY WEBSITES

Department of Human Services

Office of Tax and Revenue

Department of Parks and Recreation

Department of Employment Services

Metropolitan Police Department

Office of Boards and Commissions

Commission on the Arts and Humanities

## LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

Hands on DC

DC Convention and Tourism

DC Public Library

# DC Crime Victim Assistance Academy Will Help Educate Professionals About Victims Rights, Needs

*DC is the only city to receive three-year, \$195,000 federal grant*

Last week, I announced that the US Department of Justice had awarded the District's Office of Victim Services within the Office of the Deputy Mayor of Public Safety and Justice a three-year, nearly \$195,000 grant to develop a District Crime Victim Assistance Academy. Twenty-five states -- but no cities except for Washington -- have received awards to develop State Victim Assistance Academies.

The District Crime Victim Assistance Academy will be a five-day university-level program that is a blend of education and training developed by and for District professionals from the fields of victim services, academia, law enforcement and the criminal and juvenile justice systems to educate participants about the rights, needs and concerns of homicide, robbery, sexual assault and other victims.

This award is an honor for the city, but more importantly, it is an important development for people who are victims of crimes. The District's complex multi-jurisdictional system of justice that includes federal, city, military and juvenile entities come with different attorneys, different courts and different protocols that are hard to navigate without focused training. Working knowledge of the different justice systems in the District will be beneficial to everyone who attends. I am pleased that with this grant, the Justice Department is treating the District of Columbia like a state instead of a city.

The academic partner for this project will be George Washington University's School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Other partners who will help develop and implement the Academy include the DC Rape Crisis Center; the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (representing nine domestic violence service providers); the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing, (which is spearheading the District-wide Homicide Outreach Project Empowering Survivors); the DC Children's Advocacy Center; the Freddie Mac Foundation Child and Adolescent Protection Center; the DC Superior Court Research and Training Office and the Crime Victims Compensation Office; and the DC Office of the Attorney General.

## New Interactive Website Among Several DDOT Driving and Transportation Initiatives

*Enhancements include K Street multi-space meters, east-west bike lanes, and improved parking signage*

I am pleased to inform you of several important initiatives launched by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). First, DDOT has just launched a transportation-centric website, [goDCgo.com](http://goDCgo.com). The new website is designed to help navigate travel information and enhancements for the District of Columbia to address the issue of traffic congestion in greater downtown Washington.

The new site is a collaborative effort among DDOT and the Downtown, Golden Triangle, Capitol Hill, and Georgetown Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

Until now, residents and commuters had to visit several different sources for transportation information. With [goDCgo.com](http://goDCgo.com) we're putting this information in one convenient location. We've harnessed the power of the Internet to provide information -- with the ultimate goal of promoting alternative modes of transportation.

Building on the District government's mapping system, [goDCgo.com](http://goDCgo.com) includes information on parking, transit, bicycling, car-sharing, and more. The site features an interactive map, in addition to linkages to other DC transportation information sources.

Here's another new development. K Street has gained additional parking spaces with the installation of new solar-powered multi-space meters between 12th and 21st Streets, NW. One multi-unit meter replaces 10 single-space meters, allowing for more sidewalk space and one extra parking space per unit. The new meters will accept coins, debit and credit cards, and provide a printed receipt. The meters will also sell Circulator bus day passes, allowing riders to pay only \$3 for an entire day.

The resurfacing of E Street has brought with it a number of enhancements, including the city's first east-west bike route. The new route between North Capitol Street and 13th Street intersect the north/south downtown bus/bike lanes on 7th and 9th Streets, establishing the first links of a bike lane network in the center of the city.

Another result of the Mayor's Congestion Task Force is the addition of International "P" parking signs directing downtown motorists to nearby parking facilities. It has been estimated that up to 20 percent of downtown congestion is caused by motorists "cruising" for a parking space. DDOT, with assistance from the Downtown and Golden Triangle BIDs, identified key areas of congestion to determine best placement of the new signs. Among the congested corridors targeted were those from major roadways and high-traffic areas near parking garages whose entrances were difficult to see.

This on-street information for motorists complements the online parking information that is now available for off-street parking in greater downtown through [goDCgo.com](http://goDCgo.com).



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership  
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial  
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding  
Alerts

## Customer Service Awards

Last week, I presented awards to a number of District employees who were recognized for their outstanding customer service skills over the past year. I was joined by Kelly Valentine, Director of Customer Service Operations at a special ceremony and reading of the proclamation in observance of National Customer Service Week, October 2 – 6, 2006, in the District of Columbia. This year's theme, "Bridging the Gap to Customer Service," helps to communicate a positive message to our customers and strengthen the commitment to customer service excellence internally.

I presented awards to the following District employees:

**Office on Aging:** Donald Coates and Vadonia Crawford Mallory.

**Office of Contracting and Procurement:** Joseph Albanesi, Vivian Brown, Elizabeth Hill, Elizabeth Kilpatrick James Marshall and Sonja I. White.

**Office of Tax and Revenue:** Marcus Addison, Deborah Joyner, Pita-gaye Marshall, Alicia Mosby and Cynthia Young.

**Office of Unified Communication/Mayor's Citywide Call Center:** Adrienne Cato, Darlene Lawson, Jungja Lee and James Roberts.

**Office of Veterans Affairs:** Brenda Hall

## DC Department of Human Services Wins National Fatherhood Program Federal Grant

I am pleased to announce that the DC Department of Human Services' DC Fatherhood Initiative (DCFI) program has won a \$10 million "Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Community Access Program" grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that will be distributed over a five year period.

The District of Columbia is one of only two jurisdictions in the nation to be awarded the Responsible Fatherhood Program grant, which requires funding activities to promote healthy marriage, responsible parenting, and economic stability.

The DCFI program, which will receive \$2 million a year for five years from HHS, has helped low-income fathers in the District overcome barriers to providing emotional and financial support to their children for the past three years. HHS also awarded smaller grants under the fatherhood program to three District nonprofit organizations, the Latin American Youth Center, National Organization of Concerned Black Men, Inc., and Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaborative.

Since beginning operation in Fiscal Year 2004, the DCFI program, managed by the DHS Office of Grants Management, has assisted nearly 3,000 low-income fathers in the District. Prior to winning the fatherhood grant award from HHS, DHS used \$1.3 million in TANF dollars each fiscal year to fund the work of competitively selected community-based organizations in the District which comprise the DCFI program. The community-based organizations assist low-income fathers in acquiring personal development and basic education skills, substance abuse intervention and treatment, positive parenting and peer support skills, and job training and placement, among other lifestyle changes.



# Community News

- [Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Steps Up Enforcement](#)
- [Probe Into Hurricane Katrina Gas Prices Ends](#)
- [Health Alert - Consumers Are Advised Refrigerate All Carrot Juice, Including Pasteurized Carrot Juice](#)

## Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

10/14 - 10/15	<b>DC Green Festival</b> 11 am - 6 pm Washington Convention Center 801 Mt. Vernon Place 202-584-7336
10/21	<b>12th Annual Race for Mental Health</b> 9 am Rock Creek Park, Fitzgerald Tennis Center 16th and Kennedy Street, NW
10/21	<b>Domestic Violence Summit</b> 10 am - 3 pm Patterson Elementary School 4399 South Capitol Terrace, SW 202-698-1454
10/27	<b>"Moneywise" Consumer Information Fair</b> 10 am - 3 pm One Judiciary Square 441 4th Street, NW, Old Council Chamber
10/28	<b>Household Hazardous Waste and E-Cycling Collection</b> 8 am - 3 pm Benning Road Trash Transfer Station 3200 Benning Road, NE

